

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,029
Response dated May 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 27, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 8 and 9 are in the application wherein claims 1 to 3 stand withdrawn from consideration as being for a non-elected invention and claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by either one of the patents to Watanabe or to Kanai.

The Office Action has been considered and pursuant thereto, claim 8 of the application, from which claim 9 depends, is hereby amended in order to more clearly define Applicant's invention and to distinguish it over the cited prior art. Specifically, the claims are directed to, and are made hereby to particularly recite a paper roll 20 in Fig. 4, for packaging paper which is in a double folded state (see pg. 13, lines 6 to 15). Such packaging paper, when it is wound around on a shaft member 16 produces a condition wherein the compressing force added to the end of the shaft member will be increased. In order to accommodate such condition, the notches 21A, which are disposed circumferentially about the inside wall of the roll are provided with a thin portion defined by leaving the outer portion of each engaged portion uncut and the inner portion cut, and removed, as shown in Fig. 8 of the drawings.

By means of this configuration, the thin portion is able to easily bend and has greater flexibility as compared with the uncut portion so that it is better able to absorb the aforementioned compressing force. Additionally, when the packaging paper is wound around the shaft member, a swelled or expanded condition is produced in the region containing the folded edges of the paper. Thus, the flexible thin portion of the respective notches is able, due to such flexibility, to prevent or restrain the swell of the concerned end of the paper roll.

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The claimed notch configuration is benefitted because, when the outside surface of the notch forming the thin portion remains uncut, the inner and outer peripheries of the paper roll are maintained circular along the region of the paper folds as opposed to being uneven were the wall closing the respective notches not flexible.

The features recited in the claims in the application are not taught or suggested by either the Watanabe or the Kanai references. In Watanabe, a projection 16 of the engaging portion of the spool shaft 2 simply prevents relative rotation between the core 5 and the spool shaft by engaging the grooves 5a of the core 5 on which the tape is wound. Similarly, Kanai teaches no more than that the engaging grooves 7 of the core 1 on which a ribbon or tape is wound enable a secure engagement of projections 37 with a bobbin 35 and core 1.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that claims 8 and 9, as hereby amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

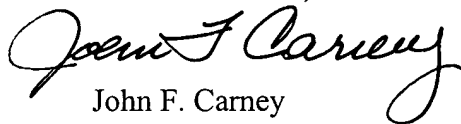
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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